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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, PINS, NU, FR  
SUBJECT: OFFER TO TESTIFY IN FAVOR OF U.S.G. ASSISTANCE  
TO THE CONTRAS

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: ~~JEAN-FRANCOIS DENIAU, A RESPECTED~~  
~~FRENCH OPPOSITION POLITICIAN WHO RECENTLY VISITED~~  
~~NICARAGUA WHO EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO TESTIFY~~  
~~BEFORE THE U.S. CONGRESS IN FAVOR OF U.S.~~  
ASSISTANCE TO THE CONTRAS. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND  
THAT THE ADMINISTRATION TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS  
OPPORTUNITY; DENIAU WOULD BE A CREDIBLE  
WITNESS WITH FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE AND VIEWS  
STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY.  
EMBASSY REQUESTS IMMEDIATE GUIDANCE.  
END SUMMARY

3. JEAN-FRANCOIS DENIAU, A RESPECTED OPPOSITION  
FIGURE WHO SERVED AS GISCARD'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN  
TRADE, IS CURRENTLY DOING SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS  
FOR THE RIGHT-OF-CENTER FIGARO MAGAZINE.  
IN THIS CAPACITY HE SPENT TWELVE DAYS LATE  
THIS SUMMER WITH STEDMAN FAGOTH AND THE MISURA.  
HE DESCRIBED HIS EXPERIENCES AND THE STRUGGLE  
OF THE MISKITO INDIANS IN A LENGTHY COVER  
STORY WHICH APPEARED IN THE SEPTEMBER 8 EDITION  
OF THE FIGARO MAGAZINE. DENIAU CHARACTERIZED  
THE PLIGHT OF THE MISKITOS IN A MARXIST SOCIETY  
WITH NO PLACE FOR THEM AS SYMBOLICALLY EQUIVALENT  
TO THAT OF SAKHAROV, THE ERITREANS, OR THE  
CAMBODIANS. HE LAMENTED THE FAILURE OF THE WORLD  
TO RALLY SUFFICIENTLY TO THEIR DEFENSE. THE  
ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTED THE MARXIST-LENINIST  
NATURE OF THE SANDINISTA REGIME AND THE  
DISINFORMATION EFFORTS ASSOCIATED WITH IT.  
NOTING THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS HAD RECENTLY  
CUT OFF USG FUNDING FOR THE CONTRA EFFORTS  
IN NICARAGUA, DENIAU POINTED OUT THAT THE  
MISKITOS WERE DETERMINED TO CONTINUE THEIR

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PAGE 002  
TOR: 031743Z DEC 84

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STRUGGLE DESPITE CRITICAL SHORTAGES OF SUPPLIES  
AND EQUIPMENT.  
BUT HE WOULD CLEARLY PREFER TO SEE CONTINUED AID.

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4. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH ME, DENIAU  
EXPRESSED HIS WILLINGNESS TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE  
U.S. CONGRESS ON HIS EXPERIENCE IN NICARAGUA  
AND ON HIS VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF RENEWING  
U.S.G. ASSISTANCE TO THE CONTRAS.  
I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF  
THIS OPPORTUNITY. DENIAU IS A RESPECTED  
OPPOSITION FIGURE WHOSE VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE ARE  
STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF USG POLICY.  
ARMED WITH HIS FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE IN NICARAGUA,  
YET COMING FROM FRANCE, WHICH HAS BEEN SKEPTICAL  
OF OUR CENTRAL AMERICAN POLICY, HE WOULD BE A  
VERY CREDIBLE AND PERSUASIVE WITNESS.

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5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE  
AT LEAST A PRELIMINARY REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL  
ASAP FOR CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH DENIAU.  
GALBRAITH  
END OF MESSAGE

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